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whole Earth newsletter

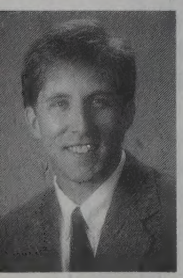
United Church Board for World Ministries Winter 1996, Vol. XXV, No.3

Twenty-six jointly appointed

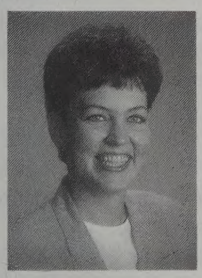
Twenty-six persons were recently ppointed to serve in 14 different coun-ries by the Disciples and the UCC. These were the last appointments made s separate entities; all further actions vill be done by the Common Global Ministries Board.

Through invitations from global part-ers overseas, the work of the missionar-es finds them in such diverse ministries nd locations as ecological work in El Salvador, evangelization in Thailand, vriting and research in South Africa, and erving as a physician's assistant in Nepal.

Seventeen missionaries went to new ssignments and nine are returnees. In ddition, the work of eight short-term olunteers was recognized.



Greg Nottingham

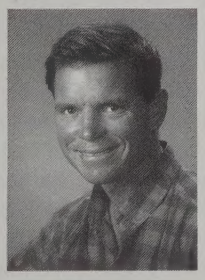


Dawn Nottingham

Dawn and Greg Nottingham are eaching at the University of El Salvador. A sociologist, Dawn hopes to research he lives of the Salvadoran people ecause many educators fled or were illed during the war. She is especially nterested in women's issues concerning exuality, violence and working with hildren.

"The link between poverty and degradation is undeniable. The poorer you are, the more intimate your relationship with the environment," Greg said. The condition of the environment "simply means the difference between life and death for many poor people." An ecological consultant, he will also teach at the Higher School of Natural Medicine. The Nottinghams received a four-year appointment.

"The poorer you are, the more intimate your relationship with the environment."



David Eubank

Karen Eubank

David and Karen Eubank received a four-year appointment to work with the Wa people in the 18th District of the Church of Christ in Thailand, in the areas of evangelism, education and development. Karen plans to use her skills as a special ed teacher. David is a Disciples' minister.

A former U.S. Army captain, David said he "felt a call to the eternal fight." Although evangelism is not emphasized in the Thai church, missionary relationships in general with the Thai people have

(continued on page 10)

Global partners join in CGMB

Three decades of the UCC and the Disciples doing mission together in many areas of the world in the midst of "challenging times" were affirmed at the 186th Annual Meeting of the United Church Board for World Ministries held in St. Louis in November.

This was followed by a joint meeting of the UCBWM and Disciples' Division of Overseas Ministries (DOM) directorates, at which initial structures and rules for the new Common Global Ministries Board (CGMB) were adopted.

"These are extremely complicated and delicate times," said UCBWM Executive Vice President David Hirano, in view of the move to a common board and the simultaneous UCC restructuring. "I believe that the Common Global Ministries Board will be an effective vessel for mission which will move us into the next century."

Six representatives from overseas partner churches will join 20 UCBWM and 20 DOM Board members at the first ever meeting of the Common Board, April 19-21, in Indianapolis. (See story page 9.)

Board members authorized a strategic planning process to review the whole mission program and asked that recommendations for process be brought to the April meeting.

In actions by the Corporation, several resolutions were passed, including one on responsible travel to and in Israel /Palestine which requests all UCC church leaders to encourage that all church-related tour groups there devote a minimum of 30 percent of their itineraries to visits with indigenous Christian and Muslim communities, and coordinate such travel with both the CGMB's Middle East Office and the Middle East Council of Churches' Ecumenical Travel Office/Liaison Office.

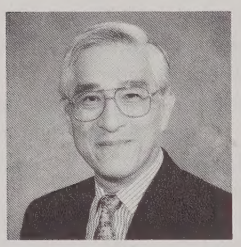
Another resolution calls for a complete

(continued on page 9)

Also in this issue:

- **New disasters, p. 4**
- **New views from afar, p. 5**
- **New look at Bosnia, p. 5**
- **New family members, p. 8**
- **New partnership, p. 9**
- **New video, p. 9**

Message from the EVP



Accompanying? Companioning?

By David Hirano

I've had trouble with the word "partnership" for a long time. My trouble with the word is that it seems to come from the business world and doesn't adequately express a relationship between either churches or people.

My concern about the word comes with questions such as, "Is it a junior or senior partnership?" "What does one bring to a partnership?" "What formalities are there to establishing a partnership?" Though Jane Parker Huber wrote the wonderful hymn "Called as Partners in Christ's Service," in which she writes about "equal partners in Christ's service," still, equal partnership is difficult.

Another difficulty I have with "partnership" is that many of our "partners" don't have a comparable word in their vocabulary.

I'd be happy if we could find another word like accompaniment or companionship. These words are more "theological." Both incorporate the word "pan," which means bread. Both speak of a relationship that involves the sharing of bread. But I don't feel that we will discard the word partnership easily.

I would be happy if we could measure partnership in a different way, or perhaps define it differently. Recently I asked the Rev. James Merseberg, Associate Hawaii Conference Minister, what word would approximate "partnership" in Hawaiian. He replied, "There is no approximation, but these four words are descriptive of partnership: lokahi, aloha, kokua, and ohana.

Lokahi means harmony. But it is more than harmony, it is unity in community. It is unity of the spirit symbolized by the joining of hands.

Aloha has been almost trivialized by tourism, but it has deep meaning which comes closest in the English language to love. That is not to say romantic love—but love that is God, and is a gift of God. Aloha has within it the word "ha," which is the Hawaiian word for breath, and so is equivalent to life.

Kokua is cooperation, but more than cooperation. It is a spirit that offers cooperation even before it is asked for.

Ohana is family. Again, we find "ha" included in the word. This has to do with life. Family in the Hawaiian language means more than the nuclear family. . .more than blood relationship.

If we could begin to think of partnership in such ways, it might be easier for all of us to define our relationships with churches across the world.

Peace be with you.

Congratulations. . .

George and Jane Sullivan-Davis are recipients of an *Award for Distinction Among Recent Graduates* from Yale Divinity School, New Haven, CT. Both ordained Disciples ministers, the Sullivan-Davises graduated from Yale in 1982 and have been serving since then in the U.S., Mexico, Peru and, most recently, Chile. In addition Jane served in Argentina. Presented in a ceremony Oct. 11, 1995, the award also constitutes a recognition to the Disciples and UCC overseas ministries, since all the couple's professional work has been connected with the two churches' presence and witness in the Latin America/Caribbean area.

The award cited the Sullivan-Davis' efforts to mitigate the effects of poverty, social repression and human rights abuse among the poor, and their "tireless labor and able leadership." George is currently assigned to the Workshop on the Promotion and Exchange of Educational and Technological Resources, doing research and educational projects within the Church and People Unit. Jane is the National Council of Churches' representative for the Andean region.

ARI in the Philippines

For the first time ever, Asian Rural Institute (ARI) training normally conducted in Nishinasuno, Japan, was held in a tropical, developing country. ARI staff and 15 participants met in the Philippines from mid-December through Feb. 4.

ARI staff had long wanted to do this, but each year the idea was set aside because of the difficulties and expenses involved. The venture is expected to narrow a gap between training and practice.

The opportunity was made possible by the Augustinian Sisters of Our Lady of Consolacion, who offered land on the Mother Consuelo Farm located near Bacolod City in Negros Occidental Province. Major areas of study were agrarian reform in the Philippines, practical work in integrated farming, and issues related to transnational corporations in third world countries.

ARI has helped train hundreds of indigenous leaders from more than 44 nations to become more self-sufficient in food development. More than 90% of ARI graduates work with their people at the grassroots level for the sake of human development.

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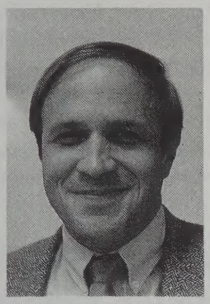
Around the Region: The Middle East

Turkey and Palestine—A season of elections

By Dale Bishop, Area Executive, Middle East



During the past month, two significant elections were held in the Middle East—an area where competitive elections have been a rarity. Both were vigorously contested, and both were "clean." Both also carry significance for future developments in the area.

In the Turkish general elections, the Refah (Welfare) Party, an Islamist grouping, received the highest vote total. Although they fell well short of a mandate, garnering only about 20% of the vote, the relatively strong showing of this conservative religious party has provoked considerable speculation about the continuing durability of the secularism instituted by the founder of the Turkish Republic, Kemal Ataturk. Refah's success has been attributed both to solid, community-based organizing, and to the disarray within and between the two mainstream parties (True Path and Motherland), each of which drew slightly fewer votes. This disarray is reflected in the inability thus far of these latter two parties to form a coalition government.

While Turkey has a relatively long history of democratic elections, the Palestinians on Jan. 20 participated in their first-ever "national" election. They voted for a president and for 88 members of a council that will meet in Gaza. Significantly, Palestinians from throughout the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) as well as from Gaza cast their ballots. However, the voting in East Jerusalem was somewhat bizarre in that people voted at the post office and placed their ballots in slots on the side, rather than on the top, of the ballot boxes. This was at the insistence of Israeli authorities who wanted to maintain the not-so-polite fiction that these were absentee, "mail-in" ballots. Palestinians also complained of intimidation from a large contingent of police who surrounded the post office, and from right-wing Israeli groups who threatened Palestinian Jerusalemites with the revocation of their resident permits if they voted. Clearly, the battle for Jerusalem has begun.

Supervised by the European Union, a host of foreign observers were present for the election. A delegation of observers from U.S. churches, mobilized by the National Council of Churches, included UCC representative Maelinda Turner, former staff colleague with the UCBWM and OCIS. Together with other international church-related agencies, this group issued a report that generally praised the conduct of the elections while noting the ambiguities of questions about sovereignty still being negotiated.

A significant issue for Palestinian Christians was the policy adopted by the Palestinian Authority of setting aside designated "Christian" seats. Although Christians comprise only about 2.5% of the Palestinian population in the West Bank and Gaza, they were accorded eight seats, including one in Gaza where Christians number about 2,000 of a one million population. For some Christians, the "quota" was reassuring—a sign of good faith and good will on the part of the Authority. Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah, who had advocated for the system of apportionment, pointed out that without it only one Christian, Hanan Ashrawi, would have been elected.

For other Christians, however, this policy was a troubling reminder of the Lebanese experience where confessionalism became one of the causes of civil war. For this latter group, the Palestinian tradition of secularism—of looking beyond religious identification—has been eroded by designating seats according to religious identity. They further point out that divisions were provoked within the Christian community, leading to "block voting." As a matter of fact, except for Dr. Ashrawi (an Episcopalian) all the Christians elected are Greek Orthodox—the largest Christian community. Finally, Christians wondered whether legislative power is the measure of a community's influence and contribution to the national cause. "Isn't it more important that we contribute in other ways?" one asked. Christians do indeed play a role far beyond their numbers in maintaining schools, hospitals and other institutions that serve the public good.

What was most important to the Palestinians with whom I spoke, however, was that for the first time they had a "legal" say in their own destiny. They were proud that although Yasir Arafat won by an overwhelming 88% his victory was not of the 99.9% variety enjoyed by Syria's Assad or Iraq's Saddam Hussein. One friend told me he'd voted for Arafat's opponent even though he favored Arafat. The reason? "I wanted him to get less than 90%." But no one has any illusions. The next and most important question is the authority of the Palestinian Authority. Is this, as almost all Palestinians fervently hope, the beginning of a Palestinian state? Or will this be a means exercised by Israel of containing Palestinian nationalism while continuing to be the real power in the lives of the Palestinian people.

***Dr. Dale L. Bishop** has headed the Middle East program for the UCC and the Disciples since 1980, responsible for linkages of both denominations with ecumenical partners. For further information contact Bishop c/o the Joint Ministry in the Middle East at 475 Riverside Dr., 16th Fl., New York, NY 10115.*

Opportunities

- **Pilgrimages to Haiti and Bosnia** are being offered by the Ministry of Money, 2 Professional Dr., Suite 220, Gaithersburg, MD 20879, 301/670-9606. Haiti is set for March 29-April 7, and Bosnia June 15-29.

- Tour the cool **Andean Highlands of Ecuador** June 24-July 3, led by former UCBWM missionary Paul Streich who lived there for 32 years. Contact Streich for further information at 17610 133rd Drive, Sun City West, AZ 85375, 602/546-4131.

OGHS: Sharing God's resources

One Great Hour of Sharing receipts and special gifts from UCC members and friends have played a faithful role in addressing human loss in many areas of the world. Highlights from recent weeks follow.

◆ **Heating assistance:** The United Church Board for World Ministries (UCBWM) sent $1,000 to the South Dakota Conference UCC to assist 10 elderly families, members of Green Grass UCC, who had run out of propane for home heating in the face of possible record-breaking temperatures approaching minus 59 degrees. The action was prompted by cuts in heating assistance expected to continue until the federal budget impasse is settled.

◆ **North Korea flooding:** The UCBWM contributed $18,500 to the Church World Service (CWS) appeal for this tragedy which has left 500,000 in critical need. Loss of crops has created food shortages expected to worsen this spring when most of the autumn harvest will have been consumed. Those who lost homes need fuel, clothing and blankets. CWS also shipped antibiotics, rehydration tablets and medicine to help prevent the spread of cholera.

◆ **Northeastern U.S. flood aid continues:** To date the UCBWM has disbursed $29,500 in OGHS funds for flooding which resulted from heavy snows and rains. Of this $10,000 went to CWS for its $150,000 appeal; $4,500, New York Conference UCC; $10,000, Ohio Conference UCC; and $5,000, Penn Central Conference UCC. In all cases monies will be used for basic needs.

◆ **Illness in Nicaragua:** The UCBWM sent $2,500 to the Christian Mission of Nicaragua to help ease the suffering of sick and dying persons. A combination of volcanic eruptions and flooding has resulted in epidemics of malaria, bronchitis and conjunctivitis, among other diseases.

◆ **Philippines typhoons, storms:** Every year the Philippines are pounded by storms of various kinds. Damages were so great in 1995 that CWS expanded its appeal to $125,000. The UCBWM sent $5,000 to CWS and the same amount to our partner, the United Church of Christ in the Philippines. CWS targeted aid to young families with children and infants.

◆ **Hurricane Opal:** As middle- and upper-income persons in Alabama, Florida and Georgia collected insurance to aid them with property damage, more than 1,000 low-income, Spanish-speaking farmworkers were faced with the loss of not only their homes but their jobs. The UCC responded with $5,000 to CWS, $10,000 to the Florida Conference UCC, and $2,000 to the Southeast Conference UCC. All attempts were made to reach those who fall "between the cracks" of standard disaster assistance.

◆ **Bangladesh flooding**: At least 100 deaths and 400,000 lost dwellings were attributed to devastating floods in December. $6,000 went to CWS for the work of our partner, the Christian Council for Development/ Bangladesh, as it responded with food, bedding and temporary shelter.

◆ **Columbia, Peru violence:** Entire towns have been abandoned in the face of increasing death threats, killings and human rights violations against civilians in this conflict. The UCBWM sent $5,500 to help victims of the violence in 1994 and 1995.

Persons wishing to help with disasters should make checks payable to their Conferences, and send them to their Conferences with a request that the gift be forwarded on to the Office for Global Sharing of Resources (GSR), c/o UCBWM, 475 Riverside Dr., 16th Floor, New York, NY 10115. The GSR Office disburses national and international disaster monies. A detailed list of OGHS grants/disaster disbursements is available from the GSR Office.

Bank serves needs of rural Nicaraguan women

BANCONOS ("Our Bank") is one of five new community banks in Nicaragua backed in part by a $50,000 loan from the UCC- Disciples' Common Ministry. A women's community bank, it serves credit needs of rural women in San Pedro Nuevo for rice, bean, corn and livestock production.

BANCONOS is part of an innovative approach to grassroots economic development unfolding in Nicaragua through NCDLF, the Nicaraguan Community Development Loan Fund, which relies on the creativity and hard work of the poor to promote economic development in their own communities. In addition to repaying the loans, borrowers pay interest to cover the majority of NCDLF's operating expenses. The Common Ministry loan was backed by a guarantee from CEPAD (our partner, the Nicaraguan Council of Protestant Churches).

BANCONOS' president is Anita Melania Florez Lopez, a veteran community leader whose background gives her great insight into needs of the people and the area. She is doing an excellent job of identifying good loan candidates—those who can both use the funds productively and improve the economic well being of the community in the process.

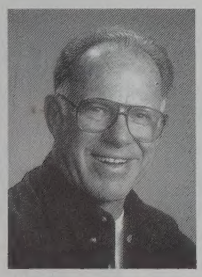
Anita and people like her are the linchpins behind the success of the banks, which received NCDLF loans totaling $120,000 during the second quarter of 1995. The banks receive a low-interest loan, then augment the interest they offer slightly to cover administrative costs.

The community bank system is a new model of organization and financial operation designed with three goals in mind—to involve the community in analyzing their problems and participating in the search for financial solutions; to offer start-up loans and stimulate savings so the banks can be self-managing and self-financing in the first three years; and to guarantee mechanisms of social support and peer pressure that will ensure high levels of repayment in communities where collateral guarantees are scarce.

With the help of regional CEPAD offices, the Loan Fund has worked to ensure bank success by offering a high level of technical assistance, including workshops in community organization, credit administration and basic accounting. The Common Ministry investment was made over two years ago at the suggestion of Susan Peacock, then UCBWM Secretary for Global Education & Advocacy.

How We See It From Here

***Bob Porter** teaches in the Jaffna Peninsula of Sri Lanka in the midst of a civil war that has shown no sign of let-up, which often precipitates inquiries as to his safety and whereabouts. A recent escalation of hostilities again heightened concern, but Bob was reported safe. Excerpts from his last letter testify to the spirit and determination of the students and civilians he works with in spite of constant danger.*



Robert Porter

• . . .a second wave of evacuation occurred here when shelling began again in our area. This time two of the key Lions Club doctors left us, as did our Lions secretary, a much-loved teacher at Jaffna College. And while all the schools are functioning, perhaps 20% of the students have not returned to classes.

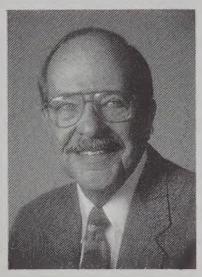
• While I was eating. . .the Army arrived and surrounded the four of us taking shelter in the boys' hostel after a shell had hit my roof. The "occupation" lasted 3 days only, and the Army vanished. But for 2 months they maintained that they had occupied this area and were setting up a civil administration!

". . .surrounded the four of us... after a shell had hit my roof."

• A more than sufficient number of our students volunteered to help (with polio vaccinations). Our Lions, financially milked as they are, are also selecting five particularly deserving families to care for this year in a district-wide program to reach the most needy in a really personal way.

• In the midst of Tiger determination to fight to the end and government determination to respond in kind, some 15 of the peninsula's high school English choirs are preparing for the Christmas service. One of our songs will be a heartfelt "All We Are Saying is Give Peace a Chance."

***Darlene and Howard Goodrich** both serve as theological tutors at Kgolagano College, an ecumenical institution in Gaborone, Botswana.*



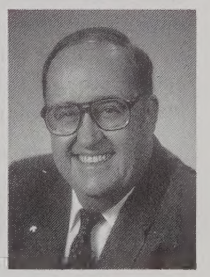
Darlene Goodrich ***Howard Goodrich***

A healthy Africa spirituality exists with an acceptance of tough-life conditions. There is some impatience with the lot of life, but it is normally expressed without much cynicism, a marked contrast to an affluent America. Crime is high. Hunger and drought cycle through southern Africa annually. The rural people, the neglected majority, wearied by poverty and insufficient grass for the animals or water for crops, stream to the cities for survival. Erosion and overgrazing have depleted the soil. Gaborone has mushroomed from 30,000 in 1987 to 140,000 today. Promises of industrial, public and commercial development and jobs have added to the swelling of urban populations.

". . .the neglected majority. . . stream to the cities for survival."

Western structural adjustment policies have generally encouraged industry and commerce rather than agriculture in these agrarian societies. Policies of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have fostered retrenchment in social and human development programs in favor of industry, commerce and privatization. One result is the migration of millions from rural to urban areas across Africa. Shack cities, squatter villages, desperate poverty and crime encircle many cities. Perhaps even more tragic is the wholesale destruction of African communal culture, the traditional safety net of rural villages' values and stability. The poor have exchanged communal dignity and hope for urban anonymity, chaos, violence and rootlessness. In modern Africa there are many parallels with the movement of rural African Americans from the south to urban centers in the U.S. from the 1930's to the 1970's.

In the midst of the massive changes in Africa, the church grows. It is a major force for good and hope. Christianity has swept the southern half of the continent. The church was one of the critical players in South Africa's transformation. The Word of God that proclaims dignity for all helped to raise up a generation of new leaders, nurtured in Christian mission schools, who became the Nelson Mandelas of South Africa. In 27 years in prison on Robbin Island, Mandela missed only one Sunday worship, a day when he was very ill. May such discipline, sacrifice and abiding hope nurture us all as the people of God in all places.



Kathy Glenn ***Frank Glenn***

***Frank and Kathy Glenn**, volunteers at Silliman University in the Philippines, report the following good news.*

Kathy is a hit with her first course in modern Greek. She has three classes where she expected only one. This may seem odd that Filipinos are interested in Greek, but it isn't so odd when you consider the fact that the number one producer of sailors is the Philippines, and many serve on Greek ships.

The Los Altos UCC, Long Beach, CA, has written us suggesting they "adopt" us for two years, during which time we will exchange information about missions here and possibly visit them. We are committed to convincing people that, while the world probably doesn't need any more 19th century "Brother, are you saved?" type missionaries, it does need the interchange of people and ideas to refresh the Kingdom of God for its tasks in the 21st century. With the implosion of Russia, the end of the cold war, lots of nasty little regional hot wars, etc., we can't leave the 21st century to the "rulers of darkness of this present age."

Issue Perspective

After more than four years of violent conflict in the former Yugoslavia, a chance for peace may be emerging.

Intense U.S.-led negotiations beginning in August culminated in an agreement negotiated in Dayton, OH, and signed Dec. 14, 1995, in Paris, by the Presidents of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, and Yugoslavia (i.e. Serbia and Montenegro). The Dayton accord provides for the recognition of Bosnia-Herzegovina (hereinafter referred to as Bosnia) as one independent state within its existing borders, but divided into two "entities." One segment, 51%, will be under control of the present Bosnian government (predominantly Muslim, but including a minority of Serbs and Croats) in alliance with the separate Bosnian Croatian community. The other segment of 49% of the territory will be under control of the Bosnian Serb community.

The Dayton agreement, reached under the leadership of U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Holbrooke, is designed to bring a final end to a war which has caused well over a quarter million deaths (primarily civilian), displacement of millions from their homes, incalculable physical destruction and an intolerably cruel level of civilian suffering. It has been marked by particularly heinous crimes, including "ethnic cleansing" and the use of systematic rape and forced pregnancy as an instrument of war policy.

Background

The conflict arose from antagonisms among the various Slavic national communities which—by decision of the victorious World War I powers in 1918—were united artificially into one political state eventually called Yugoslavia. Serbia assumed the dominant role and saw the new Yugoslavia as essentially an expanded Serbia—a notion resented especially by Croats and Slovenes.

Political quarrels were compounded by religious and economic diversity. The eastern part of the country (Serbia, Montenegro and Macedonia) was predominantly Orthodox Christian, while the western part (Croatia and Slovenia) was predominantly Roman Catholic. In the middle, Bosnia was an amalgam of both, mixed with a strong Muslim population. Economically, the disparity between relatively affluent Slovenia at one extreme and somewhat underdeveloped Macedonia at the other created differences too great for these historically separate peoples to feel part of one state.

". . .created differences too great for these historically separate peoples to feel part of one state."

The post-World War II communist government had, with some success, discouraged emphasis on separate "national" identities by promoting instead the notion of a single Yugoslav state. However, in 1989 when communist governments all across eastern Europe began to collapse, communist leaders in Yugoslavia's various republics (such as Serbia's Slobodan Milošević now president of what remains of Yugoslavia) quickly perceived that, in the words of the recent revealing study *Yugoslavia: Death of a Nation,* they had "everything to lose from a peaceful transition from state socialism. . .to free-market democracy." Accordingly, to subvert the delicate multi-communal fabric, Milošević initiated a venomous campaign of Serbian nationalism designed to provoke inter-communal conflict—first in Kosovo, then in Croatia and Bosnia—from which he expected to emerge as the autocratic leader of the dominant faction. Political leaders in some other republics, whether in response or for their own reasons, similarly found it to their advantage to stimulate re-assertion of their own communities' separate identities.

Desires for Independence

Slovenia and Croatia seceded from Yugoslavia June 25, 1991, fulfilling long-simmering desires to be independent countries. Subsequently Bosnia and Macedonia likewise declared independence, leaving only Serbia and Montenegro as the two republics still constituting Yugoslavia. This disintegration of the original Yugoslavia, however, was fraught with the important and ultimately disastrous complication that the populations of Croatia and of Bosnia included significant Serb minorities. The militant leadership in Serbia and within the Serb communities in Croatia and Bosnia rejected any solution which would separate these Serb minorities from Serbia—and accordingly refused to accept these two republics' independence declarations. The considerable military power of Serbia was made available to support this position, and conflict became inevitable.

The Conflict and the Peace Negotiations

The Croatian declaration of independence led directly to warfare between Croatian government forces and Croatian Serb militias, ending with the Serbs in control of more than one-quarter of Croatian territory. Fighting in Bosnia erupted in April 1992 with similar results—but also with far greater loss of life, destruction of property and devastation of normal life than in Croatia. The far better-equipped Serb militias secured control of about 70% of Bosnia, where fighting continued steadily and a series of cease-fires yielded only brief respites.

The presence of the United Nations' Protection Force (UNPROFOR) initiated in March 1992 provided many significant benefits, but most crucially it failed to produce a lasting cease-fire (to say nothing of a permanent political resolution). Despite continual pious promises to the contrary, aggression, death and flagrant disregard for human rights continued their brutal course in the face of which the peace-keeping force's limited mandate left it largely impotent.

Negotiations pursued initially by the U.N. and the European Union, then by a smaller five-nation "contact group," focused on Bosnia, where the conflict was most severe and complex. Talks centered on a proposed map for the division of Bosnia, eventually formulating the 51-49 allotment adopted in the Dayton accord. Still, many months of negotiation failed to produce a comprehensive detailed agreement, and as the longest ever cease-fire (four months) drew toward its end May 1, 1995, there was general despair about finding any negotiat-

Peace in the Balkans?

YOUNG REFUGEES from the "ethnic cleansing" rest from the strain of war last year in northern Bosnia. To date the UCC has sent over $128,000 to help relieve suffering in the Balkans. (Photo by UNHCR/A. Hollmann; courtesy Church World Service and Witness)

ed settlement for averting further intensive military action.

May 1995 did bring renewal of hostilities but with unexpected results. Croatian government forces regained control of nearly all the territory of Croatia which had been seized by Serbian militias in 1991. Vicious military action continued in Bosnia, but a number of new factors emerged by late August 1995 to create an entirely different situation more conducive to conclusion of a settlement:

(1) A change in the balance of power leaving the Bosnian Serbs—until then the major aggressor—no longer dominant;

(2) Virtual completion of the process of forced transfer of populations ("ethnic cleansing"); and

(3) The determination by President Clinton for a variety of practical and political reasons to reverse years of indecisive policy in Washington and assert firm U.S. leadership and involvement to end the conflict.

The Present and the Future

Pursuant to the Dayton accord, the U.N. terminated the mandate of UNPROFOR and the NATO-led International Forces (IFOR) were substituted in its place. After scattered early threats of resistance from groups dissatisfied with the Dayton accord (particularly Bosnian Serbs objecting to the pact's assignment of an area near Sarajevo to the territory to be controlled by the Bosnian government) cooperation from authorities and military forces of all three communities has grown.

The relative lack of hostile military action has been accompanied by generally cooperative acceptance by the civilian population. Many Bosnians of all three communities, exhausted and frustrated by years of conflict and deprivation, have enthusiastically welcomed IFOR, affirming its role as their best hope for desperately needed peace. These developments have reinforced the judgment that the present policy and effort represent the most responsible and effective means to achieve a peaceful solution.

Still the losses resulting from this war have been enormous. People of all three communities have experienced bitter physical and emotional pain and, to a great extent, irreparable suffering and loss as a result of their political leaders' selfish quests for power.

Another major casualty of the war is the ideal of a genuinely multi-communal society (the stated goal of the Bosnian government only). Even though the new Bosnia will be in form a unitary state, the Bosnian Serb entity clearly intends to live as autonomously as possible. Tensions persist also between Croats and Bosnian Muslims, despite their political alliance. In other words, the despicable policy of "ethnic cleansing," which particularly characterized this war, largely attained its aim. Even though the Dayton accord promises that persons displaced by the war are entitled to return to their original homes, it is unlikely that many will do so given the prevailing atmosphere of hatred, suspicion, and insecurity.

Beyond the conflict in Bosnia, other unresolved and still dangerous aspects of the Yugoslav puzzle remain, though pushed to the background while negotiations necessarily concentrated on Bosnia. One is the severe ethnic tension in Kosovo, an area in southwestern Serbia where Serbs are a minority amid an overwhelming ethnic Albanian majority. The report that Serb refugees from Croatia and Bosnia are to be resettled in Kosovo sounds ominously like a formula designed to provoke a massive explosion. Also requiring attention is the investigation of war crimes and violations of human rights. This is in progress but the International War Crimes Tribunal's effectiveness is severely limited by its incapacity to take into custody those it indicts.

Now the priority need is the continued work of IFOR to provide a secure environment within which the war-devastated society can be rebuilt. A parallel effort, with help from the international community, is the establishment and support of civil political institutions required to implement the Dayton accord. Then two remaining huge tasks can proceed in earnest: physical reconstruction and community rebuilding, including efforts to enable former enemies—somehow—to relate positively and cooperatively. The international community now seems at least to have recognized the massive quantities of aid it will need to provide for security. The second task, community rebuilding, is one to which the churches must be prepared to make their contribution. The way ahead begins to become clearer. It remains for the people of the former Yugoslavia, as well as for the governments, churches, and all people of good will around the world, to cooperate in doing what needs to be done.

Kenneth R. Ziebell, Area Executive
Joint Ministry in Europe Office

Partners already reaping benefits

Although they have not yet actually visited one another in person, congregations in Doylestown, PA, and Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, are already reaping benefits sown during the early stages of their cross cultural partnership.

For instance, in addition to the regular weekly Bible study group at Salem UCC at Doylestown, a new, cross cultural Bible study group is now in spiritual communication and worship sharing with members of the Njube United Congregational Church in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. It is part of a program initiated by the World Council of Churches which will culminate late this year in a Conference on World Mission and Evangelism.

The early attempt at getting to know the other from the Salem end of the partnership included speakers such as a young man who had taught in Zimbabwe with the Mennonite Central Committee and the visit of a Zimbabwean student, Majaha Nhliziyo, then attending Andover-Newton Theological School who, with his family, provided a rich cultural lens. Also, the U.S. television show *Today* had been broadcasting from Zimbabwe during that period, and that spurred further interest at Salem. The congregations have also shared life in Christ through the use of audio and video recordings.

The cross cultural process has been "one of my joys," said the Rev. Clifford Lawrence Jr., pastor of the Salem church. "It's wonderful how the relationships are being deepened even before the trip."

On April 10 four members from Salem (Lawrence and his wife Nancy, Virginia Patton and Barbara Rufe) will leave for three weeks in Zimbabwe. While one church member was wondering what they might be expected to give, Lawrence said, another suggested "'we may get more than we'll be able to give.' We're excited."

Karen Aduba, who transcribed one of the Zimbabwe audio tapes, said some Salem members who read the Bible study were "quite moved by the spiritual richness. We've felt such a connection because of that; it seems to be reaching people in ways they really don't expect."

In addition to their study, witness and shared understandings of the good news, members of the two churches have and will continue to share photo albums, letters, and arts and crafts. Many letters from Zimbabweans resulted when an American artist created an oversized Christmas card signed by members during a worship. A group of Doylestown quilters are working on a wall hanging. Sunday School children draw pictures adorned with Bible verses. Early in the relationship Doylestown sent a banner that hangs in the Njube Church—as evidenced in a worship video returned by the Africans.

The Njube members, whose church is a part of the UCBWM partner denomination the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa, sent a hand-embroidered communion tablecloth which now graces Salem's communion table. The Zimbabweans, who plan to make a return visit in the spring of 1997, are shipping crafts to the Salem Church which will be sold to help defray expenses. One Zimbabwean woman who saw a photo of Pastor Lawrence's wife Nancy crocheted her a blouse. "It's a lovely, lovely piece, and this lady made it just from that photo," he said. Members of both congregations are working on the first draft of a covenant to help guide the process and strengthen the bridge of partnership.

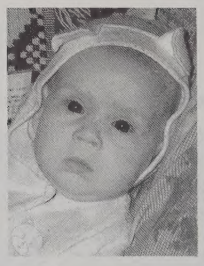
UCC on the `Net

The United Church of Christ now has a presence on the World Wide Web.

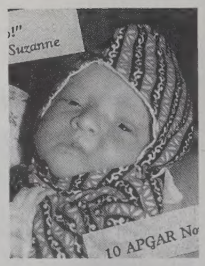
The address of the UCC Home Page, managed by the Office of Communication, is http://www.apk.net/ucc The number of requests for file access, according to Home Page Manager Andy Lang, is now running at more than 10,000 per week.

Included in the UCBWM section of the Home Page are articles concerning travel to the Holy Land and a four-country youth travel project, brochures pertaining to global Christianity and the mission work of the UCC and the Disciples, and articles on advocacy issues.

There are also two meetings of interest about UCC mission on UCCHRISTNET. "UCBWM Disaster Response" is a chronological report of One Great Hour of Sharing disaster response written by Global Sharing of Resources Secretary Linda Petrucelli. The other, "World Ministries," was set up to provide information and opportunity for discussion of the worldwide mission of the UCC.



Weible



Collins

A growing family

UCC-Disciples' Common Ministry missionary families have been growing in recent months. Congratulations to—

♥ **In Lesotho:** David and Roxi Owen completed a lengthy adoption process and daughter Rebecca became an official member of the family in May. Rebecca Naleli Owen, born in October 1992, joins David, Roxi and their 9-year-old daughter Christa. The Owenses both work for the Lesotho Evangelical Church, David as a project officer and Roxi in education for the hearing impaired.

♥ **In Japan:** Sarah Beth Weible, born July 1, 1995, was welcomed by parents Diane and Tim, and by sister Rebecca Marie (born July 1993 in Tokyo). The Weible family lives in Tono City where Tim and Diane do rural evangelism.

♥ **In Nepal:** Christopher Jai Fox Collins, son of Andy and Jyoti (Ellen) Collins, made his debut Sept. 28, 1995. "Since he was born on my birthday," said Eric Gass, Southern Asia Area Executive, "I should worry about his future, but just as my parents overcame most of my bad stars, Andy and Jyoti will, no doubt, do the same!" The Collins' first child was born in Kathmandu. They have been working for the United Mission to Nepal since December 1993.

♥ **In Jamaica:** A son, Austin Anthony Benjamin, was born October 22 in Kingston to Crispin Phillips and wife Stella. Crispin works in Ocho Rios as a personnel development coordinator at the invitation of the UCBWM partner, the United Church of Christ in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands.

Prayers taking off! . . .

About $6,000 for Wear A Prayer has come in from UCC'ers ($10 donations for wristband names of Balkan refugees to pray for). Checks go to the Office for Global Sharing of Resources, 475 Riverside Dr., 16th Fl., New York, NY 10115.

Overseas partners at CGMB table

Six overseas partners will be a part of the new Common Global Ministries Board at its first meeting in April. Partner members are as follows—

From the Africa area, the **Rev. Des Van der Water** is the mission enabler of the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa (UCCSA). The UCCSA has both Congregational and Disciples strands. Van der Water directs the UCCSA's Pastoral Plan for Transformation, which aims to make the UCCSA into a mission church and not just a maintenance church.

From the East Asia and Pacific area, the **Rev. Lee Ching Chee** has been Associate General Secretary of the Hong Kong Council of the Church of Christ in China since 1981. She is the former Secretary for Education in Mission of the Council for World Mission, based in London. She has traveled widely and is the first ordained woman in that denomination and in Hong Kong.

From the Latin American and the Caribbean area, **Noemí Espinoza** is executive president to the Christian Commission for Development in Honduras and an active member of the Evangelical and Reformed Church in Honduras, both historical partners of the LA/C Common Ministry. She holds degrees in law and nursing, is active in ecumenical projects and organizations and is vice chair of the NCC's Committee on the Caribbean and Latin America.

From the Middle East area, **Dr. Mary Mikhail**, a member of the Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon, is president of the Near East School of Theology (NEST), the first woman to lead a seminary in the Middle East. She previously served as dean and professor of Christian education there, and also as director of the women's program of the Middle East Council of Churches.

From the Southern Asia area, **the Rt. Rev. Samuel Amirtham** is Bishop in South Kerala Diocese of the Church of South India. He previously worked with the World Council of Churches as the Asia Secretary. He has edited and written books on issues related to theological education and texts for Tamil Theological Seminary students. Amirtham has initiated and developed institutions and move-

New Global Ministries video available

"Sharing Life in Christ," a new five-part video, highlights the work of UCC/Disciples' partnerships with individuals and communities around the world.

Compelling stories and glimpses of Christian witness are organized around Global Ministries' five guiding principles—

- Sharing life in Christ;
- Sharing persons in mission;
- Telling the Gospel story;
- Healing God's continuing creation;
- and interfaith dialogue.

Each of the five video segments is about eight minutes long and designed to stand alone. In their combined telling, the wholistic work of Global Ministries comes alive. A learning guide contains background material, scripture, questions for discussion and activities to strengthen the messages in the video.

To purchase a copy at $15 each postpaid, contact United Church of Christ Resources at 800/325-7061. It may also be borrowed from your UCC Conference Resource Center.

Overseas Partners *(continued)*

ments for human development and social awareness among the poor.

The Rev. Jürgen R.A. Kanz is a staff member in the headquarters of the Evangelical Church in the Rhineland, a constituent part of the Evangelical Church of the Union (EKU). He had served as a missionary of the United Evangelical Mission Society (VEM, related to the EKU) in Zaire and had then worked on the VEM staff in Wuppertal. In this capacity he has long been involved with questions of world mission, partnership, and mission personnel. Within the EKU, the relationship with the UCC is part of his portfolio. He is a member of the EKU Committee on Mission and Ecumene.

CWS Hotline:

Call **1-800/456-1310** for a recorded message about Church World Service disaster response activities.

Partners *(continued from page 1)*

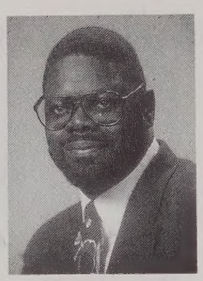
ban on production, stockpiling, trade and use of anti-personnel landmines, and for solidarity with those in landmine-affected countries. Landmines today are used routinely against civilians, and kill/maim 26,000 people each year. Between 80 and 110 million mines are currently scattered throughout more than 60 countries.

The final resolution supports the rights of the people of East Timor to self-determination and urges the U.S. government to cease military aid, training and arms sales to Indonesia. Neither the United Nations nor the international community has recognized Indonesia's annexation of East Timor, effected militarily in 1975, just as East Timor was in the process of decolonization from Portugal. The invasion and subsequent occupation brought about the demise of over a third of East Timor's population and the suppression of its culture.

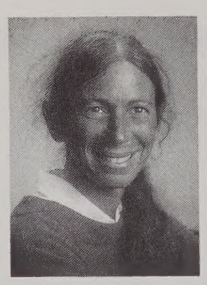
Voted missionary emeritii status were Charles and Gaby Hein, who served together just over 40 years in Togo, Zaire and Kenya; and William Cundiff, for almost 43 years of service in Japan.

The next UCBWM Annual Meeting will be held Nov. 15-18, 1996, at the American Baptist Assembly Grounds, Green Lake, WI.

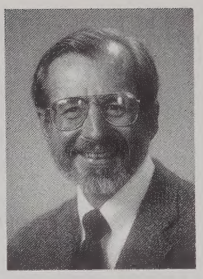
Veronica Kyle



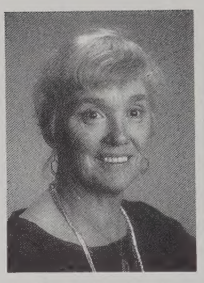
William Kyle



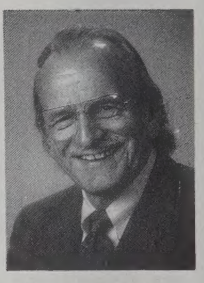
Cynthia Ferchak



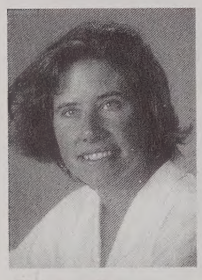
John Ferchak



Wendy Bayer

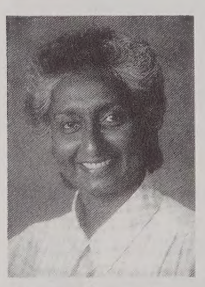


Charles Bayer



Kristen Lee

Dana Peinado



Sheila Kuruvilla

Elena Huegel

been good, the Eubanks said.

During three previous trips they took to the Wa states they said "1,100 people came to the Lord. . . . But you have to be very careful how you help. It is a hard task to do God's work God's way." Their assignment started March 1.

Pastoral ministry and social service programs will be the work of **Veronica and William Kyle**, who began their work at the invitation of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands January 1. The Kyles have three children and are members of the Avalon Park United Church of Christ, Chicago.

"If you can allow people's needs to be the main focus of your service, you can empower them," said William. Veronica said, "In every country we looked at, women and children are last. I look forward to connecting Jesus with women and children as well."

Cynthia and John Ferchak spoke of critical development problems facing Nepal. In spite of an economic boom in Asia, Nepali per capita income is "incredibly low" and nine of 10 children are "dying unnecessarily. They need toilets and education. All the rest of development depends on building on that," said John, who holds degrees in chemistry and biophysics. The Ferchaks will both be working at the Rural Director Centre in Pokhara at the request of the United Mission to Nepal.

". . .toilets and education. All the rest of development depends on . . . that."

Cynthia will serve as a physician's assistant for the health service department, and said she can function as a physician or an educator in Nepal. The Ferchaks, who will serve four years, are members of the Society of Friends. "My relationship with Jesus Christ is an inner relationship. . .I have to acknowledge that of God in every human being," Cynthia said.

In South Africa, people and churches "took power into their own hands to deal with the violence" of apartheid, said **Kristen Lee**, who was part of the ecumenical monitoring program there in 1993-94. "It is important that South Africa not be seen as having overcome apartheid, because it lives on in many different ways. The struggle has only taken on a different form. Many, many groups of marginalized people are carrying on as they try to do a different balancing act."

Lee was appointed to a three-year term as a staff associate with the Center for Multi-Party Democracy in Durban. In addition to doing writing and research, she will serve as assistant to the general secretary.

Dana Peinado will begin her three-year term April 1. She will teach English in the high school division of Kobe College, Japan. She also taught in Japan in 1990-91. She sees her role as opening communications between cultures.

Sheela Kuruvilla, who describes herself as a teacher with "Christian spirit and devotion," will be a math and science instructor at St. Catherine's Secondary School, Maseru, Lesotho. Lesotho is changing from a rural to an urban society, she said, and this has fostered drug, prostitution and pregnancy problems for youth.

Sheela's term is for two years, nine months. Her husband Sunny is a financial consultant with the Christian Council of Lesotho.

Elena Huegel is serving as a Global Mission Intern working with youth and serving as a partnership enabler for the Pentecostal Church of Chile and the UCC's Massachusetts Conference. She previously served in Paraguay where she coordinated environmental education programs and recreational activities at the Jack Norment Camp. The daughter of Disciples missionaries, she has spent most of her life in Latin America. During her two years in Chile she will be based in Curicó.

Charles and Wendy Bayer will begin a two-year appointment July 1 with the Churches of Christ Theological College, Mulgrave, Australia. Wendy will serve as professor of literature and composition. A Disciples minister, Charles will be visiting professor of congregational life and work.

"Australia is an extremely secular society, and in a sense the church in Australia witnesses to the `no longer Christians,' a growing paradigm of church life," said Charles. Wendy said Australia is now an Asian rather than an English country, and it may be the voice of the indigenous "that may serve the church in Australia."

A Nigerian—**Atsen Ahua**—was appointed an International Associate to serve two years as communications officer with the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) in Nairobi, Kenya. All African churches which the UCC and Disciples relate to are members of the AACC. Ahua started Dec. 1, and joins

(continued on next page)

Alison Stendahl

Amanda Shipman

Phyllis Byrd, a UCC minister and AACC staff member since 1990.

Clarence ("Clip") and Janice Higgins received two-year appointments as Associates to Australia. The recently retired Nebraska Conference Minister, Clip starts Dec. 1, 1996, as pastor of the Taree Parish at the invitation of the Uniting Church of Australia.

Nine persons returned for further service (all dates are 1996 unless otherwise indicated)—

Five years: **Alison Stendahl**, Istanbul, Turkey, as of Sept. 1, math teacher and Christian-Muslim relations.

Three years: **David and Roxi Owen**, Maseru, Lesotho, project officer and education consultant, respectively, both with the Lesotho Evangelical Church, returned Jan. 1.; **Amanda Shipman**, Namibia, pastor of Luderitz, Oranjemund and Keetmanshoop parishes, returned Dec. 1.

Two years: **John and Renee Carter**, Caacupé, Paraguay, beginning July 1, co-general directors of the Jack Norment Camp; **Frank and Kathy Glenn,** Volunteers to Dumaguete City, the Philippines, as of April 1, teaching and social work, respectively.

One year: **Jeannette Samter**, Maseru, Lesotho, math teacher, returned Jan. 1.

Eight persons were recognized for past or upcoming short-term volunteer service, including—

Five months: **Barbara and Thomas DeHaven**, Jackman Memorial Hospital, Bilaspur, India.

Three months: **Nicholas Gourdet,** Habitat for Humanity project, Kenya; **Ryan and Suzanne Finkenbine**, psychiatric service with United Mission to Nepal.

Two months: **Brian and Claudia Grant**, teaching at United Theological College and women's programs and issues, respectively, Bangalore, India.

One month: **Krista Gallegos**, Witness for Peace delegation, Haiti.

Chronicle

HOME ASSIGNMENT

(Note: Date given indicates the ending date.)

Aiko & Anthony CARTER, Japan, 2 months, 8/31/96.

Ann & David CLICK, Lesotho, 6 months, 4/30/97.

Scott COUPER, Lesotho, 2.5 months, 2/29/96.

Ron FUJIYOSHI, Pacific Rim, 4-mo. extension, 4/30/96.

David GROGAN, Zambia, 2 months, 12/31/96.

Martha KNOLL, Thailand, 1-mo. extension, 8/31/97.

John RASCHE, Japan, 3 months, 12/31/96.

Diane & Tim WEIBLE, Japan, 9 months, 1/31/97.

Ben & Beth WEISBROD, Mozambique, 3 months, 4/1/96.

Diane WICKS, South Africa, 4-mo. extension, 1/31/97.

REASSIGNMENT

Kenneth DOBSON, Thailand, from the Christian Communications Institute to the pastoral ministry unit of the Church of Christ in Thailand.

RETIREMENT

Wallace and Ruth Robeson, Turkey, as of March 1, 1995.

LOSSES TO THE FAMILY

Virginia Canfield, who served in Turkey from 1965 to 1980, died July 31, 1995.

Elinor G. Galusha, former UCBWM staff, died Dec. 3, 1995, in Iowa. She was 68. She had served the World Board as Associate Secretary for the Pacific Region from 1970-76, then as Overseas Personnel Secretary until her retirement in 1990. She had also served as staff for the Board for Homeland Ministries from 1960-70.

At the time of her death she was secretary of the Eastern Iowa Association, UCC, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Iowa Conference. During her active ministry Ms. Galusha was a director of the Japan International Christian University Foundation and the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia, and was the first president of the Japan-North American Commission on Cooperative Mission. She also served on numerous committees of the National Council of Churches/USA.

Ordained into the Congregational Christian Churches in 1951, she served pastorates in Marblehead, OH, and Amherst, OH. She is survived by her partner of 14 years, the Rev. Beverly Thompson-Travis, a sister and brother, and seven nieces and nephews.

John C. Heinrich died in January in Florida. He had served in Rhodesia from 1950-64 and in Zambia from 1966-70.

Robert King, who once served as vice principal at Kodaikanal International School in South India from 1972-75, died Jan. 26, 1996. He is survived by his wife Eleanore of Columbia, CA.

John Murphy, former missionary in Bombay, India, died Dec. 30, 1995, in New Zealand. He leaves a wife Judith, who also served in India, and two sons, David, 20, and Mark, 18.

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF

Lee Bergsman
Lawrence & Carol Gilley
Virginia Canfield
Mildred W. Ballard
John P. Crozier
H. Telfer & Jane Mook
Elizabeth Ward
Madeline L. Ward
Elinor G. Galusha
Allen & Judy Myrick
Ruth Good
Mr. & Mrs. Otto Artopoeus
Ida M. Grant
Lawrence & Carol Gilley
John C. Heinrich
Allen & Judy Myrick
Herman H. Kreider
Irma K. Blum
Margaret Walker Nethercut
H. Telfer & Jane Mook
Benjamin F. Ousley
Lawrence & Carol Gilley
Murcy Poulard
Lloyd Van Vactor
Jane Sales
Lawrence & Carol Gilley
Willie Mae Simpson
Grace H. MacMillan
Charles O. Yoo
Lloyd Van Vactor

Shipping vaccines

Funds from the UCC's One Great Hour of Sharing offering were used recently to pay for shipping Hepatitis B vaccines worth more than $4.7 million to Haiti and India. "We were delighted to have the opportunity to participate in a cooperative effort to get this critical vaccine to those who need it most," said the Rev. Linda Petrucelli, Secretary for Global Sharing of Resources.

The vaccine was donated by Merck, a New Jersey-based pharmaceutical company, to Interchurch Medical Assistance (IMA) for distribution in developing countries. IMA is a nonprofit association of 13 relief and development agencies which serves overseas health programs in need.

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Cleveland, OH 44115

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The *only* news worth hearing. . .

The following stories from Bosnia were told during opening worship at the UCBWM Annual Meeting in November.

Chris Hedges, Balkan Bureau Chief for the New York Times, last fall reported two stories from the town of Ključ in northwestern Bosnia, which had a prewar population of 18,000 (90% Muslim). After Serb forces conquered the area in 1992 the Muslim population was reduced to 400. In September 1995 Bosnian government forces regained control of the town and the Serbs fled, with only seven elderly Serbs remaining in Ključ.

Hedges first visited two of them—Bosnian Serb women—in the apartment they share with a Bosnian Muslim friend. The three—friends since childhood—had been struggling together trying to survive the war. One of the Serbs, Burka, told Hedges that during the three years of Serb rule the two Serbian women had protected and supported their Muslim friend Dursuma. "Now she protects us."

Listening to a radio broadcasting political slogans and claims from both sides, the three said they have learned to take the propaganda seriously. "This war began with words," said Seka, the other Serb, "but none of us paid any attention at first. We knew that the extremist(s). . .were misfits, criminals and failures. But soon they held rallies and talked of racial purity, things like that. Still we dismissed them—until the violence began."

Before long, the women said, extremists had partitioned the city into Serbian, Croatian and Muslim sectors. Then came the Serbian conquest and the Bosnian government recovery. "The only news we wait for," Burka concluded, "is peace. And that hasn't come yet."

Also in Ključ, and in like vein, Hedges met a Bosnian Muslim army officer who had raced to find Nedjo, a local Serbian shop owner, as the officer's own government troops were entering the city. Nedjo had defied Serbian authorities during the period of Serbian control by taking food to his Muslim neighbors—including this officer's cousins. The officer was eager to make certain that Nedjo was protected as Nedjo had done when roles were reversed—and he was bitterly disappointed to discover that Nedjo had left town with the majority of Serbs who fled. "I guess he figured," he told Hedges, "that if he was picked up by a Muslim soldier who didn't know him he could have been punished. But every Muslim who knew him considered him a saint."

The report, said Europe area executive Kenneth Ziebell, offers assurance that there are indeed still "saints"—people who did not capitulate to the hatred and violence their political leaders have been trying to promote.

It is the spirit which believes that conflict anywhere can be replaced by reconciliation and cooperation, by a better life shared among all people.

MEMBERS OF THE CONNECTICUT Conference visited their Global Mission Partner, the Kyung-Ki Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea, Suwon, Korea, recently. Realistic expectations for the partnership were discussed and the UCC delegation invited a youth group and a women's delegation to attend a mission conference and a national women's event, respectively, later this year in the U.S. The visit would also include some home stay time in Connecticut. (Photo courtesy Kate McLean)